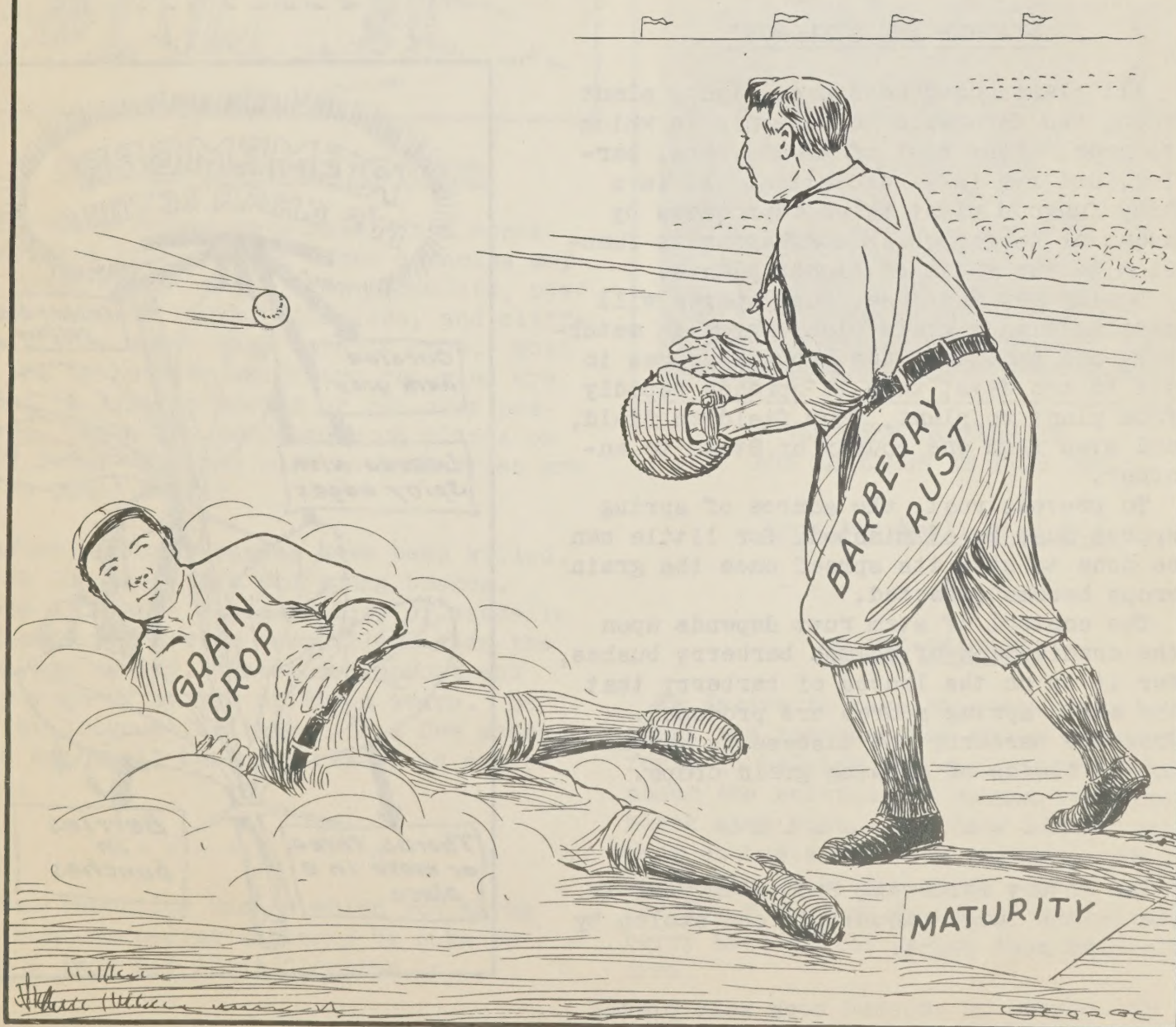


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## THE ILLINOIS RUST BUSTER

Spring, 1935

Circular Letter for Illinois  
boys and girls who are interested  
in Black Stem Rust Control

Issued by  
Division of Plant Disease Control  
Bureau of Entomology & Plant Quarantine  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Box 72 Urbana, Illinois

Robert W. Bills  
Agent in Charge

## A GOOD YEAR

During 1934, Illinois Rust Busters reported 88 properties having barberry bushes. As a result of their reports, 753 bushes were destroyed.

Government and State men employed in connection with the barberry eradication program destroyed bushes near East Dubuque and Metropolis, at opposite ends of the State, as well as at scores of places in between. Most of them were in Jo Daviess, Will, McHenry, Lake, and Cook Counties.

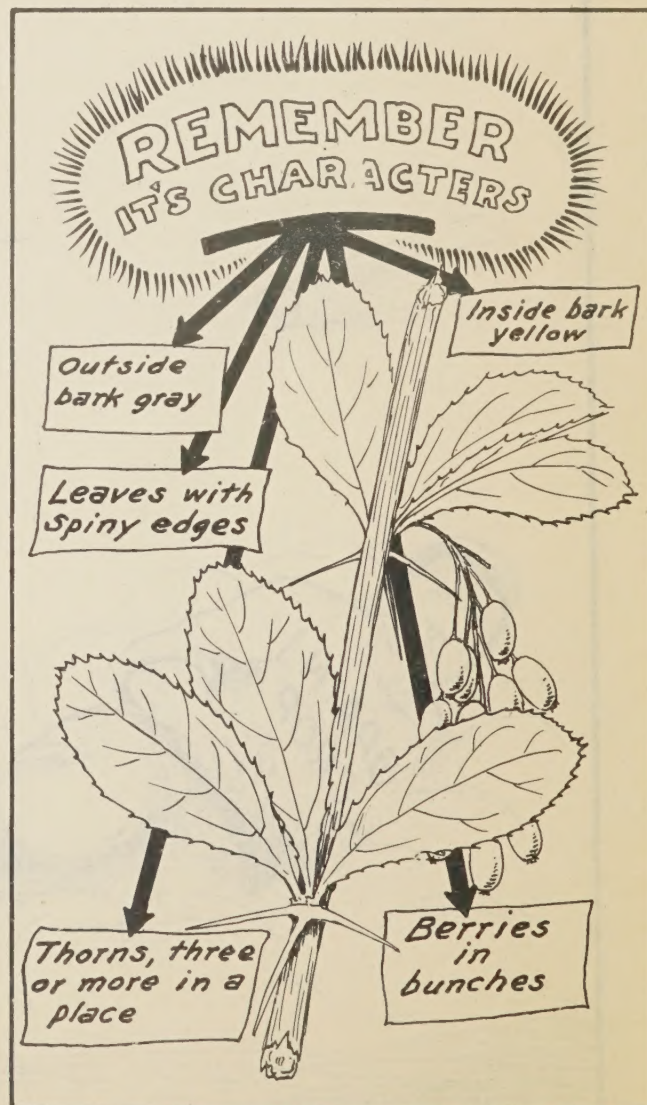
## WEATHER AND STEM RUST

All plants need moisture, light, plant food, and favorable temperature in which to grow. Stem rust of wheat, oats, barley, and rye is no exception. It is a tiny fungous plant which reproduces by means of spores which correspond in function to the seeds of higher plants.

During May and June, rust spores will germinate on a grain plant, grow to maturity, and produce a new crop of spores in six to ten days; thus it spreads rapidly from plant to plant, from field to field, and even from one county or State to another.

To prevent rust, the source of spring spores must be eliminated, for little can be done to stop its spread once the grain crops become infected.

The control of stem rust depends upon the eradication of common barberry bushes, for it is on the leaves of barberry that the early spring spores are produced. From the barberry the disease is spread to the fields of growing grain crops.



The injury resulting from stem rust is due to the large amount of food stolen by the tiny rust plant.

Ten pounds of crushed rock salt placed around the crown will kill an average sized barberry bush.

2,374 BOYS AND GIRLS HAVE QUALIFIED  
AS MEMBERS OF THE N.R.B.C.





### CHECK OLD LOCATIONS OF BUSHES

Barberry bushes developing from seeds scattered by birds and other agencies may be found almost any place. Woodlots, pastures, stream banks, hillsides, and cliffs are places where they usually grow. Most of the barberries which are reported are found in lightly wooded or cut-over pastures. Have you searched such places on your farm? Are you sure no barberries are to be found there?

After barberry bushes have been killed, watch for seedlings and young bushes. There is always a possibility of seeds in the soil not having been killed when the bush was salted. These may sprout and grow even after two or three years. Be on the lookout for them. In a few years' time one small bush may reseed an entire area.

When reporting bushes which you think are rust-spreading barberry be sure to send a twig for identification.

### HERE'S ONE:

Here's a rust buster who didn't get a badge. While hunting barberries last winter, Cecil Pearson found several large branches of barberry lying across the road on a slippery hill. Someone had cut down the bush to lay in the track to get his car up the hill. After the snow is gone Cecil is going to prospect in that locality for the roots so he can get one of the Rust Buster badges.



VERY FEW BARBERRIES  
ARE AS LARGE AS THIS ONE

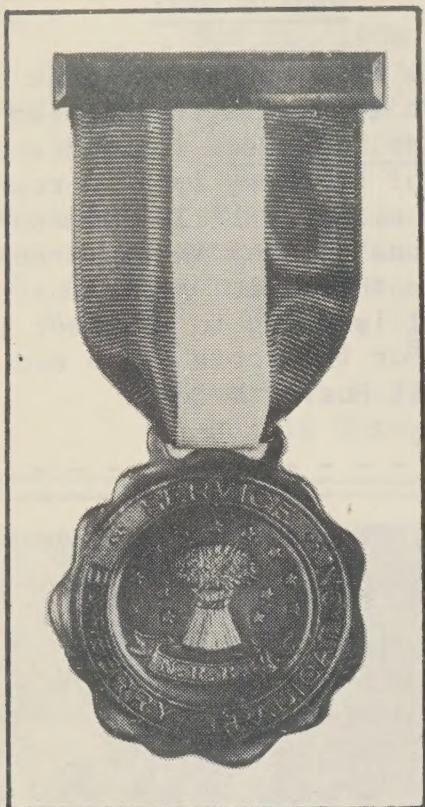
Look For Small Ones Too

### TO THE TEACHERS

We desire to take this opportunity to thank the teachers for their splendid efforts in helping the children to learn about the relation of common barberry to black stem rust. You have helped develop many enthusiastic rust busters. This is demonstrated by the large number of barberries found and reported to the Barberry Eradication Office by school children.



MEDAL AWARDED TO 317 ILLINOIS  
BOYS AND GIRLS



Boys and girls may become members of the Rust Busters Club and receive a membership pin by searching their home properties for barberries and reporting that they have done so to Robert W. Bills, Box 72, Urbana, Ill.

If a bush is found on a property not previously reported, the Rust Prevention Association will present the finder with a medal and a life certificate in the National Rust Busters Club. The certificate is signed by the Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the Executive Secretary of the N.R.B.C.

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**IMPORTANT!** Not all kinds of barberry harbor the stem rust disease. For example, the Japanese barberry does not spread rust and may be planted where desired without endangering small-grain crops.

THE N.R.B.C. MEDALS

The medals awarded to each boy or girl who reports heretofore unknown barberry-infested properties are not only attractive but significant.

Embossed in the center is a bundle of good wheat representing the kind of grain a farmer may raise if the dreaded black stem rust is not present.

The stars arched over the bundle represent the 13 North Central grain-growing States which are engaged in a cooperative program with the U. S. Department of Agriculture to eradicate all harmful barberry bushes, namely: Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

The letters N.R.B.C. below the bundle stand for a large organization of boys and girls, "The National Rust Busters Club". These boys and girls have searched their home properties and others in their community for harmful barberries.

The word "Service" appears at the top of the medal and "Barberry Eradication" at the bottom. The medal is suspended by a red, white, and blue ribbon, from a bar pin on which is indicated first, second, third, fourth, or fifth degree. A bronze medal is awarded for the first property, a silver medal for three locations of barberries. All awards are furnished by the Rust Prevention Association. Additional bar pins are given for the second and fourth properties indicating second and fourth degrees.

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REPORT PROMPTLY THE BUSHES YOU FIND  
AND RECEIVE THE AWARDS